

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A method in a computing system of associating metadata with a media entity comprising:

identifying a first media entity;

defining a category that includes the first media entity;

designating a portion of a map of a data store containing the media entity as corresponding to the category;

specifying metadata for the first media entity that applies to each media entity in the category;

identifying a second media entity belonging to the category based on the containment of the second media entity in the designated portion of the map; and

attributing the specified metadata to the second media entity.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein identifying the first and second media entities includes crawling a web site.

30. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein defining the category includes examining a path of a URI at which the media entity is identified.

31. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein defining the category includes examining a web site name at which the media entity is identified.

32. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein specifying metadata includes parsing a file name of the media entity.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 including using a metadata dictionary to store a first string in the metadata when a second string is identified in the file name.

34. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein specifying metadata includes prompting an operator to enter metadata based upon the defined category.

35. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein specifying metadata includes extracting metadata from the first media entity.

36. (New) The method of claim 28 including comparing the specified metadata with known good metadata.

37. (New) The method of claim 28 including checking the validity of the identified media entities.

38. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the media entities are selected from the group consisting of text, audio, video, or images.

39. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the metadata conforms to one or more of a Dublin Core standard, an MPEG standard, or an XML standard.

40. (New) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing system to perform a method of associating metadata with a media entity, the method comprising:

identifying a first media entity;

defining a category that includes the first media entity;

specifying metadata for the first media entity that applies to each media entity in the category;

identifying a second media entity belonging to the category; and

attributing the specified metadata to the second media entity.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein identifying the first and second media entities includes crawling a web site.

42. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein defining the category includes examining a path of a URI at which the media entity is identified.

43. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein defining the category includes examining a web site name at which the media entity is identified.

44. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein specifying metadata includes parsing a file name of the media entity.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 including using a metadata dictionary to store a first string in the metadata when a second string is identified in the file name.

46. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein specifying metadata includes prompting an operator to enter metadata based upon the defined category.

47. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein specifying metadata includes extracting metadata from the first media entity.

48. (New) The method of claim 40 including comparing the specified metadata with known good metadata.

49. (New) The method of claim 40 including checking the validity of the identified media entities.

50. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the media entities are selected from the group consisting of text, audio, video, or images.

51. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the metadata conforms to one or more of a Dublin Core standard, an MPEG standard, or an XML standard.

52. (New) A data structure for associating metadata with a media entity comprising:

a category identifying one or more media entities;

metadata that applies to each media entity in the category;

one or more rules for identifying a media entity belonging to the category, such that the contents of the data structure may be used to associate the metadata with identified media entities belonging to the category.